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Jan. 7, 2003
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NEWS RELEASE

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE BLACKWELL WILL SPEAK AT UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON'S MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST

DAYTON, Ohio — Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell will be the keynote speaker at the University of Dayton's 16th annual Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. The breakfast is open to the public and reservations are required. Tickets are \$10 and can be reserved online at <http://www.udayton.edu/~ku/tickets/mlkbreakfast.htm>. For more information, call (937) 229-3333.

Blackwell's public service includes terms as mayor of Cincinnati, an undersecretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, where he led the U.S. delegation to the four preparatory meetings for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

In 1994, he became the first African-American elected to a statewide executive office in Ohio when he was elected treasurer of state. Now serving his second term as secretary of state, Blackwell intends to run for governor of Ohio in 2006.

A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the National Council of the United Nations Association of the USA, Blackwell serves on the board of governors of the International League for Human Rights and the National Council of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. His international activities have taken him to 53 countries, and he has twice received the U.S. Department of State's Superior Honor Award for his work in human rights.

"After learning about all that Kenneth Blackwell has done for human and civil rights as well as his recent focus and campaign involving character building, I thought it would be very appropriate for him to serve as our speaker because these are clearly some of the same themes exemplified by the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said Monica Adkins, director of diverse student populations. "We are very fortunate that his busy schedule will permit him to join the UD community as we remember Dr. King."

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A frequent public speaker, Blackwell has lectured at Harvard University, Oxford University and the University of Newcastle in England, the Moscow State Institute for International Relations in Russia and the International Academy of Public Administration in Paris. Several of his speeches and lectures have been published in *Vital Speeches of the Day*.

His commentaries have been carried in major U.S. newspapers, including *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. He is a frequent guest on news and public affairs programs, including *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Crossfire*, *Inside Politics*, the *Jim Lehrer Newshour* and *Hardball* with Chris Matthews.

During the 1990s he served on the National Commission on Economic Growth and Tax Reform, and in 1998, he co-edited a book with Jack Kemp titled *IRS v. The People: Time for Real Tax Reform*.

A lifelong resident of Cincinnati, he holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Xavier University in Ohio, where he later served as a vice-president and faculty member. In 1996, he and his wife, Rosa, received the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamkeeper Award.

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For media interviews, call **Monica Adkins** at (937) 229-3634.